

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-02 /095 W

----- 078164

R 020321Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3434

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 18706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, LY

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS IN LIBYA

1. DURING A CALL DECEMBER 1 BY THE ACTING E/C CONSELOR,

ASSISTANT DFA SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS PABLO SUAREZ DESCRIBED THE LIBYA TRIP FOR WHICH HE WAS AN ADVANCE MAN AND THE PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATOR ON THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS. SUAREZ SAID THAT SUCCESS OF THE MISSION WAS DUE ENTIRELY TO MRS. MARCOS WHO CAPTIVATED QADHAFI AND PERSUADED HIM TO ACCEPT MOST OF THE GOP POINTS IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE FIRST TWO DAYS WERE DISCOURAGING AS THE PHILIPPINE AND LIBYAN PANELS STRUGGLED OVER THE WORDING AND SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMUNIQUE. THE AGREEMENTS ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION WERE EASILY NEGOTIATED, BUT THE GOP WAS NOT PREPARED TO SIGN THEM WITHOUT THE POLITICAL AGREEMENT IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

2. ON THE THIRD DAY, AS THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION WAS PREPARING TO LEAVE WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT, QADHAFI TELEPHONED TO ASK THAT MRS. MARCOS CALL ON HIM AT HIS RESIDENCE IN THE ARMY CAMP. IT WAS DURING THIS MEETING THAT
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QADHAFI HIMSELF WENT OVER THE COMMUNIQUE POINT BY

POINT, ACCEPTING MOST OF THE GOP REQUESTS AND PENNING
IN THE CORRECTIONS HIMSELF.

3. SUAREZ HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR MRS. MARCOS' NEGOTIATING
ABILITY, AND AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH
SHE ESTABLISHED WITH QADHAFI, HE POINTED OUT THAT
MRS. MARCOS TELEPHONED PRESIDENT MARCOS FROM QADHAFI'S
OWN OFFICE. QADHAFI HIMSELF THEN SPOKE WITH THE
PRESIDENT. SUAREZ SAID THAT THE MANILA NEWSPAPER
ACCOUNTS OF THE MISSION AND THE ROLE OF MRS. MARCOS
WERE ACCURATE.

4. ASKED WHETHER THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE SOUTH
NOW APPEAR BRIGHTER, SUAREZ SAID THAT MUCH DEPENDS ON
THE DECEMBER 15 MEETING BETWEEN THE GOP AND NUR
MISUARI IN TRIPOLI. QADHAFI HAS ENGAGED HIS PRESTIGE
IN THE PROCESS AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ITS SUCCESS.
MISUARI HIMSELF HAS LOST SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS WHO
HAVE RALLIED TO THE GOP, AND HIS MOVEMENT APPEARS TO
BE LOSING MOMENTUM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOP HAS
TO CONCEDE A GREAT DEAL MORE TO THE MUSLIMS, AND THE
FIGHTING HAS BEEN COSTLY IN TERMS OF RESOURCES AND
CASUALTIES.

5. SUAREZ ALSO COMMENTED ON THE FRUSTRATIONS WHICH THE
DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY FACED IN TRIPOLI AND DESCRIBED
THE CONFUSION IN TRIPOLI BECAUSE OF THE CONCURRENT
LIBYAN NATIONAL PEOPLES CONGRESS ("THEIR BATASAN
BAYAN"). ASKED WHETHER HE HIMSELF ENJOYED HIS
TRIP, HE LAUGHED AND SAID HE WAS GLAD TO "LIBYA."
WE HAVE FOUND SUAREZ A FRIENDLY COLLEAGUE WITH A
SENSE OF HUMOR. HIS DEBRIEFING WHICH WAS INCIDENTAL
TO A CALL TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC SUBJECTS, INCLUDING
ABC CHARTERS, GSP, ETC. CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE GOP'S
OFFICIAL LINE.
SULLIVAN

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